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Claims 1-19. (canceled)

Claim 20. (canceled)

Claim 21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (canceled)

Claim 24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (canceled)

Claim 26. (canceled)

Claim 27. (previously presented) A compound selected from those represented by formula (Ib2):

wherein:

 R_4 represents a linear or branched (C_1 - C_6)alkyl group, and Hal represents a halogen atom.

Claim 28. (canceled)

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Claim 29. (canceled)

Claim 30. (canceled)

Claim 31. (canceled)

Claim 32. (canceled)

Claim 33. (canceled)

Claim 34. (canceled)

Claim 35. (canceled)

Claim 36. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a compound according to Claim [[20,]] <u>27</u>, alone or in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable, inert, non-toxic excipients or carriers.

Claim 37. (currently amended) A method of treating a living body afflicted with pathologies caused by attack on cartilage selected from arthritis, osteoarthritis and chondrosarcomas, comprising administering to the living body an amount of a compound of Claim 27 which is effective for treatment of the pathology.

Claim 38. (canceled)